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# Employment Situation, November 1984

Maine Department of Labor

Maine Bureau of Employment Security

Maine Division of Economic Analysis and Research

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#### **BATH-BRUNSWICK LABOR MARKET AREA**

Seasonal layoffs in fish packing, construction, and retail trade were largely responsible for Bath-Brunswick's unemployment rate increasing from 3.4 percent in October to 3.8 percent in November. Resident employment fell from 22,850 in October to 22,550 in November, while unemployment increased from 810 to 900. In comparison, the state's unemployment rate increased from 4.9 percent in October to 5.3 percent in November, while the national unemployment rate fell from 7.0 percent to 6.9 percent. The Bath-Brunswick area economy continues to be one of the strongest and healthiest in the state, as evidenced by the past four successive months of sub-4 percent unemployment rates.

#### **BIDDEFORD-SANFORD LABOR MARKET AREA**

Resident employment fell 700 from October to November in the Biddeford-Sanford Labor Market Area. In the nonfarm sector, both manufacturing and nonmanufacturing evidenced employment declines during the month. In manufacturing, employment losses occurred in rubber and miscellaneous plastics products. Nonmanufacturing losses were evidenced in retail trade and services. Resident employment fell from 31,900 in October to 31,200 in November, and the number unemployed rose from 1,800 to 1,900. The resulting local unemployment rate of 5.7 percent was higher than the statewide rate of 5.3 percent but below the national rate of 6.9 percent. A year ago, the local unemployment rate stood at 6.8 percent.

#### **LEWISTON-AUBURN STANDARD METROPOLITAN STATISTICAL AREA**

Labor market conditions in the Lewiston-Auburn SMSA were mixed in November. The local unemployment rate fell from 6.2 percent in October to 6.0 percent in November, with reductions in both resident employment and unemployment. A decline of 500 in resident employment, which dropped to 36,100 in November, was mostly due to seasonal layoffs in agriculture. Meanwhile, the number of unemployed persons in the area declined from 2,400 in October to 2,300 in November. Nonfarm wage and salary employment fell by 100 to 34,100 in November, as layoffs in shoes, textiles, and construction more than offset employment growth in rubber and plastics manufacturing and wholesale and retail trade. Last year at this time, 2,900 local residents were unemployed, and the unemployment rate was 7.4 percent.

#### **PORTLAND STANDARD METROPOLITAN STATISTICAL AREA**

Labor market conditions in the Portland SMSA remained relatively unchanged between October and November. Resident employment declined from 101,100 in October to 100,400 in November, while both the number unemployed and the unemployment rate remained unchanged at 3,300 and 3.2 percent, respectively. The current unemployment rate is considerably improved from the rate of 5.3 percent registered in November 1983. Between October and November 1984 employment losses in manufacturing were primarily evidenced in leather and leather products and food and kindred products. In nonmanufacturing employment in contract construction experienced a seasonal downturn, while wholesale and retail trade showed robust seasonal growth. The local unemployment rate of 3.2 percent for November was lower than both the state and national rates of 5.3 percent and 6.9 percent, respectively.

#### **RUMFORD LABOR MARKET AREA**

The unemployment rate for November in the Rumford Labor Market Area remained unchanged at 6.8 percent for the third consecutive month. Between October and November, resident employment declined from 18,500 to 18,230, while total joblessness fell from 1,360 to 1,330. Over-the-month changes in industrial employment included seasonal layoffs in retail trade and services. Such losses more than offset employment gains in government and leather and leather products.

#### **WATERVILLE LABOR MARKET AREA**

Economic conditions remained somewhat stable in the Waterville Labor Market Area between October and November. The current unemployment rate of 4.7 percent remained unchanged from the rate recorded in October. Resident employment evidenced little change, rising to 21,070 from 21,060 in October, while unemployment rose a bit to 1,050 from 1,040. Once again, the local unemployment rate was below the national rate of 6.9 percent and the statewide rate of 5.3 percent. In addition, the local unemployment rate this November was well below the 7.4 percent recorded a year ago. At that time 20,410 residents were employed and 1,620 were jobless. This November, nonfarm wage and salary employment rose slightly as employment gains in manufacturing offset losses in nonmanufacturing. Although within the nonmanufacturing sector retail trade evidenced seasonal gains, these were not enough to offset losses scattered throughout the remainder of the sector. Employment gains in lumber and wood products and paper and allied products were largely responsible for gains in manufacturing.



CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE BY MAINE LABOR MARKET AREA, NEW ENGLAND STATES, AND THE UNITED STATES<sup>1</sup>

AREAS	CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE			UNEMPLOYMENT			RATE			RESIDENT EMPLOYED		
	Nov. 84 <sup>2</sup>	Oct. 84 <sup>2</sup>	Nov. 83 <sup>3</sup>	Nov. 84	Oct. 84	Nov. 83	Nov. 84	Oct. 84	Nov. 83	Nov. 84	Oct. 84	Nov. 83
LABOR MARKET AREAS:												
AUGUSTA	29,370	29,510	29,470	1,610	1,480	1,840	5.5	5.0	6.2	27,760	28,030	27,630
BANGOR-BREWER	43,100	43,700	44,200	1,800	1,700	3,200	4.2	3.9	7.2	41,300	42,000	41,000
BATH-BRUNSWICK	23,450	23,660	24,560	900	810	1,370	3.8	3.4	5.6	22,550	22,850	23,190
BELFAST	11,230	11,330	11,250	1,210	890	1,200	10.8	7.9	10.7	10,020	10,440	10,050
BIDDEFORD-SANFORD	33,100	33,700	33,800	1,900	1,800	2,300	5.7	5.3	6.8	31,200	31,900	31,500
BOOTHBAY HARBOR-WISCASSET	7,920	8,590	8,510	470	340	600	5.9	4.0	7.1	7,450	8,250	7,910
CALAIS-EASTPORT	14,250	14,800	14,670	1,120	1,020	1,510	7.9	6.9	10.3	13,130	13,780	13,160
CARIBOU-PRESQUE ISLE	20,520	20,730	21,110	1,880	1,730	3,410	9.2	8.3	16.2	18,640	19,000	17,700
CENTRAL PENOBSCOT	3,560	3,590	3,750	180	180	210	5.1	5.0	5.6	3,380	3,410	3,540
DOVER-FOXCROFT	6,430	6,560	6,570	300	320	440	4.7	4.9	6.7	6,130	6,240	6,130
ELLSWORTH	21,070	22,430	19,950	1,280	900	1,260	6.1	4.0	6.3	19,790	21,530	18,690
FARMINGTON	12,520	12,700	13,430	970	940	1,230	7.7	7.4	9.2	11,550	11,760	12,200
FORT KENT-ALLAGASH	5,130	5,880	4,840	350	350	350	6.8	6.0	7.2	4,780	5,530	4,490
GREENVILLE	1,620	1,680	1,760	120	110	70	7.4	6.5	4.0	1,500	1,570	1,690
HOULTON	4,940	5,190	5,010	300	300	510	6.1	5.8	10.2	4,640	4,890	4,500
KITTERY-YORK	21,040	23,570	20,800	510	470	640	2.4	2.0	3.1	20,530	23,100	20,160
LEWISTON-AUBURN SMSA	38,400	39,000	39,100	2,300	2,400	2,900	6.0	6.2	7.4	36,100	36,600	36,200
LINCOLN-HOWLAND	5,880	5,990	5,960	250	290	380	4.3	4.8	6.4	5,630	5,700	5,580
LIVERMORE FALLS	6,210	6,490	6,060	590	600	670	9.5	9.2	11.1	5,620	5,890	5,390
MADAWASKA-VAN BUREN	3,970	4,310	4,180	300	290	460	7.6	6.7	11.0	3,670	4,020	3,720
MECHANIC FALLS	2,310	2,550	2,110	220	210	250	9.5	8.2	11.8	2,090	2,340	1,860
MILLINOCKET-EAST MILLINOCKET	4,930	5,020	5,030	150	170	300	3.0	3.4	6.0	4,780	4,850	4,730
PATTEN-ISLAND FALLS	2,180	2,290	2,230	100	100	180	4.6	4.4	8.1	2,080	2,190	2,050
PORTLAND SMSA	103,700	104,400	100,500	3,300	3,300	5,300	3.2	3.2	5.3	100,400	101,100	95,200
ROCKLAND	18,220	18,370	17,540	1,010	830	1,410	5.5	4.5	8.0	17,210	17,540	16,130
RUMFORD	19,560	19,860	20,340	1,330	1,360	1,570	6.8	6.8	7.7	18,230	18,500	18,770
SEBAGO LAKES REGION	11,870	12,010	11,430	490	470	730	4.1	3.9	6.4	11,380	11,540	10,700
SKOWHEGAN	21,360	21,820	21,180	1,460	1,470	2,210	6.8	6.7	10.4	19,900	20,350	18,970
SOUTHWEST PENOBSCOT	8,250	8,250	8,140	660	610	830	8.0	7.4	10.2	7,590	7,640	7,310
WATERVILLE	22,120	22,100	22,030	1,050	1,040	1,620	4.7	4.7	7.4	21,070	21,060	20,410
STATES: <sup>4</sup>												
MAINE	528.1	540.1	529.4	28.0	26.5	38.9	5.3	4.9	7.3	500.1	513.6	490.5
CONNECTICUT	n/a	1,686.0	1,620.0	n/a	70.0	77.4	n/a	4.2	4.8	n/a	1,616.0	1,542.0
MASSACHUSETTS	3,075.0	3,054.0	3,044.9	104.0	104.0	169.8	3.4	3.4	5.6	2,971.0	2,950.0	2,875.1
NEW HAMPSHIRE	n/a	534.7	511.1	n/a	15.1	19.4	n/a	2.8	3.9	n/a	519.6	491.7
RHODE ISLAND	504.7	500.6	476.3	22.4	22.1	29.3	4.4	4.4	6.1	482.3	478.5	447.0
VERMONT	n/a	279.0	266.4	n/a	9.3	14.7	n/a	3.3	5.5	n/a	269.7	251.7
NEW ENGLAND STATES <sup>4</sup>	n/a	6,594.4	6,447.4	n/a	247.0	349.5	n/a	3.7	5.4	n/a	6,347.4	6,097.9
UNITED STATES <sup>4</sup>	114,115	114,250	112,147	7,869	7,989	9,129	6.9	7.0	8.1	106,246	106,262	103,018

<sup>1</sup> All estimates shown are not seasonally adjusted. Estimates for the State and sub-State areas have been benchmarked to the latest Current Population Survey estimates for the State.

<sup>2</sup> Preliminary estimates.

<sup>3</sup> Revised estimates.

<sup>4</sup> In thousands.

n/a Not Available

Labor Market Information Services



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EMPLOYMENT SITUATION

SUPPLEMENT TO THE STATEWIDE MONTHLY NEWS RELEASE

A BRIEF ANALYSIS COVERING SELECTED MAINE LABOR MARKET AREAS

AUGUSTA LABOR MARKET AREA

Seasonal employment losses resulted in resident employment dropping somewhat in the Augusta Labor Market Area in November. Resident employment fell to 27,760 in November from 28,030 in October and the number unemployed increased to 1,610 from 1,480. The resultant unemployment rate of 5.5 percent remained above the state's rate for the sixth consecutive month. The state and national unemployment rates were 5.3 percent and 6.9 percent, respectively. Economic conditions in the local area are somewhat improved over a year ago. At that time 27,580 residents were employed, 2,050 were unemployed, and the unemployment rate was 6.9 percent. Between October and November 1984 manufacturing employment dropped slightly with losses throughout most industries. Most notable losses in nonmanufacturing occurred in retail trade and transportation and public utilities.

BANGOR-BREWER LABOR MARKET AREA

The unemployment rate in the Bangor-Brewer Labor Market Area rose slightly from 3.9 percent in October to 4.2 percent in November. Resident employment declined from 42,000 to 41,300, while unemployment edged upward from 1,700 to 1,800. A year ago the local unemployment rate stood at 7.2 percent and 3,200 persons were unemployed. Manufacturing employment declined by approximately 300 between October and November, with the largest decrease occurring in the leather and leather products industry. In the nonmanufacturing sector, employment gains in wholesale and retail trade and nondomestic services were largely offset by losses in contract construction and government.

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